



**Conference of the Parties to the
United Nations Convention
against Transnational
Organized Crime**

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Addendum

**III. Review of the implementation of the United Nations
Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the
Protocols thereto**

**D. Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in
Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition**

1. At its 6th meeting, on 17 October 2018, the Conference considered agenda item 2 (d), entitled “Review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto: Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition”. For its consideration of the item, the Conference had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretariat on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to promote and support the implementation of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (CTOC/COP/2018/4);

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the reports on the meetings of the Working Group on Firearms held in Vienna from 8 to 10 May 2017 and on 2 and 3 May 2018 (CTOC/COP/2018/8).

2. An introductory statement was made by a representative of the Secretariat.

3. Statements were made by the representatives of Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Kuwait, Mexico, Nigeria, Portugal, Spain, India, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and the European Union.

4. The representative of France and the observer for the Economic Community of Central African States made statements.

Deliberations

5. On behalf of the Chairs of the Working Group on Firearms at its fifth and sixth meetings, held in Vienna from 8 to 10 May 2017 and on 2 and 3 May 2018, a



representative of Mexico presented the reports on those two meetings (CTOC/COP/WG.6/2017/4 and CTOC/COP/WG.6/2018/4) and the recommendations adopted by the Working Group.

6. Several speakers underlined the importance of the Firearms Protocol and the Organized Crime Convention as the principal instruments for countering the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and called upon States that had not yet done so to become a party to the Protocol. Others noted the importance of implementing the Firearms Protocol in synergy with other relevant instruments such as the Arms Trade Treaty, the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons.

7. Some speakers, while noting that the primary responsibility for fully implementing the Firearms Protocol and combating trafficking in firearms rested with States, emphasized the importance of cooperation and dialogue among States and relevant stakeholders.

8. Many speakers underlined the links between trafficking in firearms on the one hand and other forms of serious and organized crime, in particular drug trafficking, trafficking in persons and terrorism, on the other. They highlighted the negative impact of illicit firearms on national, regional and global security, peace and development, as well as humanitarian and stabilization efforts. In addition, one speaker identified illicit firearms as a key factor that facilitated trafficking in natural resources, such as minerals and timber.

9. Many speakers provided an overview of national and regional efforts to prevent and combat the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition. These included integrated strategies and action plans to address those types of crime and the establishment of: appropriate institutions and specialized firearms trafficking units within the police and the judiciary; appropriate legislation and appropriate regimes to control firearms; comprehensive record-keeping systems; enhanced cooperation and the exchange of information at the bilateral, regional and international levels, as well as among national security services; joint task forces composed of different security services to enhance border control; collection campaigns to encourage the voluntary and anonymous surrender of weapons; specialized training sessions on investigating and prosecuting trafficking in firearms, and training sessions for strategic decision makers on firearms issues; and cooperation with civil society, community involvement and dedicated awareness-raising programmes.

10. Speakers expressed the growing concern with regard to emerging trends and challenges, including the illicit reactivation of deactivated firearms, the conversion of non-lethal weapons into real firearms, the unlicensed assembly of firearms from parts and components and the use of modern technologies to manufacture firearms without authorization. They underlined the need to address the legal loopholes that allowed those activities to take place.

11. Several speakers identified concrete needs for enhanced action by stakeholders, in particular in the areas of international cooperation, tracing and the exchange of information; the marking of firearms, their parts and components; the use of information on firearm seizures to uncover strategic nodes of criminal organizations; the need for countries receiving tracing requests to conduct more systematic investigations into trafficking in firearms; and the need to enhance capacities to collect and analyse data on firearms.

12. Several speakers expressed their support for the work of UNODC and its Global Firearms Programme. In particular, they referred to the legislative and technical assistance provided in the form of, for example, the ongoing firearms data collection initiative, the cooperation between the Office and other international and regional

bodies with a mandate relating to firearms, and the substantive contribution of the Office to other intergovernmental processes relating to firearms. Speakers outlined concrete examples of cooperation.
